

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method including:
 - detecting heart contractions over a time period;
 - obtaining a time-domain first signal representing time intervals between the detected heart contractions;
 - filtering the first signal to obtain a time-domain second signal including frequency components substantially in a first frequency band, wherein the second signal is influenced by both sympathetic and parasympathetic components of an autonomic nervous system;
 - filtering the first signal to obtain a time-domain third signal including frequency components substantially in a second frequency band, wherein the third signal is influenced by the parasympathetic component of the autonomic nervous system and not substantially influenced by the sympathetic component of the autonomic nervous system; and
 - providing an indication associated with a balance between the sympathetic and parasympathetic components of the autonomic nervous system based on the time-domain second and third signals.

2-32. (Canceled)

Conclusion

Claims 2-32 have been canceled. Claim 1 is now pending. The Applicant respectfully requests that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to the examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, MS: Missing Parts, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 3 day of June 2004.

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